

Wednesday, February 28, 1990

Pro-choice supporters campaign

By CHRIS VAUGHN
Of The Battalion Staff

The Texas Abortion Rights Action League is campaigning hard this year to fill 10 key state positions with pro-choice candidates, including a local state senate seat, a member of TARAL said.

Samantha Smoot, an employee of the Austin-based TARAL, told the Pro-Choice Aggies Tuesday that TARAL is concentrating on the governor's and lieutenant governor's races and eight legislative races.

"We hope to make a big impact on 10 races," Smoot said. "We need to get the worst guys out of office. We need to make our Legislature representative of Texas."

One of those key legislative positions, Smoot said, is the race for Kent Caperton's District 5 state senate seat. Democrat Ron Delord, who TARAL endorses, is facing Democrat Jim Turner in the primaries. The winner will run against Republican Richard Smith who is unopposed in the primary election for District 5, which includes the Brazos Valley.

Smoot said the lieutenant governor's race is often overlooked by voters, but as leader of the Texas Senate, the lieutenant governor can make a difference in legislation, she said.

Democrat Bob Bullock, who is endorsed by TARAL, is running against Republican Rob Mosbacher for lieutenant governor.

Getting politically involved in a key election year like 1990 is the way to make a difference in the abortion issue, Smoot said.

"We need to send a really loud, clear message to the politicians," she said. "We can't do it all in one elec-

See Pro-choice/Page 12

Earth studies



Lance Harris studies geology under a tree Tuesday afternoon in front of the Academic Building.

Photo by Eric H. Roalson

Figures: Men still outnumber women at A&M

By KATHERINE COFFEY
Of The Battalion Staff

After 24 years of women enrollment at Texas A&M, men are still in the majority at the University, according to spring enrollment statistics.

The number of men at A&M is 22,246, while women number 15,881 this spring, according to enrollment figures.

Spring enrollment totals 38,127, which is the record high for spring semester enrollment. The number of spring students has increased by almost 9,000 in the past decade, Registrar Donald Carter said.

International students at A&M number 2,225, Hispanic students number 2,728, African-American students number 1,128, American-Indian students number 72 and Asian students number 994.

Last semester's total enrollment of 40,192 was estimated as the largest number of students ever to attend A&M, he said.

This spring the number of students decreased by 2,365, which is normal because spring enrollment is almost always lower than the fall by an average of 2,500 students, said Carter.

This decrease is due to seniors who graduate in December and few first-semester freshmen. Also, more transfer and graduate students start school in the fall, he said.

Associate Registrar Don Gardner said that even though A&M's enrollment is getting larger, the needs of the undergraduate students must be a priority.

"Growing is prestigious in that we are the second largest school in the state, but I don't want it to become any larger. We are growing in some ways at the expense of the students."

— Don Gardner,
Associate Registrar

"Growing is prestigious in that we are the second largest school in the state, but I don't want it to become any larger," Gardner said. "We are growing in some ways at the expense of the students. We need to keep the quality of advising good for the undergraduates."

Dr. Bill Lay, director of admissions, said the

A&M Board of Regents put a limit on enrollment a few years ago by creating an enrollment limit policy. This policy set the limit at 41,000 students.

"The ideal number of students projected was 30,000 undergraduate, 10,000 graduate and 1,000 professional (veterinary and medical) students," Lay said.

This year 80 percent are undergraduate students, 18 percent are graduate students and 2 percent are veterinary and medical students.

The following are the percentage of A&M students in each college.

- College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, 12.21 percent
- College of Architecture, 3.93 percent
- College of Business Administration, 16.25 percent
- College of Education, 9.19 percent
- College of Engineering, 22.76 percent
- College of Geosciences, 1.65 percent
- College of Liberal Arts, 16.78 percent
- College of Medicine, .56 percent
- College of Science, 6.92 percent
- College of Veterinary Medicine, 3.75 percent

Six percent of A&M students are in the general studies program.

According to spring statistics, the College of Liberal Arts has been the fastest growing college, Carter said.

Agency: Consider adoption

By KEVIN M. HAMM
Of The Battalion Staff

To many young pregnant women, abortion seems like the only solution to an overwhelming problem. But a Houston adoption agency is trying to change that perception.

Cindy Seay, a social worker with New Life Children's Services, said the general public has a misconception about adoption, and only through education will that change.

"Adoption has a terrible stigma attached to it," she said Tuesday at an Aggies For Life meeting. "It says you don't love your baby. It's going to take that (education) to break down the walls that adoption has around it."

The NLCS is a crisis pregnancy center and adoption agency combined, Seay said.

When a woman first contacts the center, they inform her of all options available — marriage, single parenting, adoption and even abortion. It's important for a woman to think about the situation because "it's a decision she has to live with for the rest of her life," she said.

"I do believe parenting is for some of these girls," Seay said. "(But) we don't ignore the girls who are planning to parent because they need our help more than those girls who place (in the adoption agency)," Seay said.

If a woman decides to keep the baby, the center still is involved through counseling and support groups, Seay said. The counseling involves such things as having the future mother prepare budgets by pricing everything from day care to diapers, as well as educating them about the welfare system, she said. Parenting groups are also part of the counseling.

See Adoption/Page 12

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filing

monday, 26 february - friday, 02 march

214 pavilion, 9:00am - 5:00pm

There will be a \$5.00 filing fee. Other information and details concerning mandatory candidate meetings will be available during filing week.